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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

South Africa:* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/201 of 22 December 2005 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] and recognizing the Convention as a tool for poverty eradication,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Also noting the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group with the mandate to review the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in full and, building on the results of that review and other inputs, to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Noting the activities undertaken within the framework of the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Underlining the importance of the issue of desertification in the process of the Commission on Sustainable Development in particular in the context of its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions dealing with thematic clusters on agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

2. *Reaffirms* its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention to address causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund; reiterates its invitation to the Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, and invites the Council of the Facility to allocate more financial resources to this focal area in the next replenishment;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the ad hoc intergovernmental intersessional working group on the review of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, and invites parties to the Convention to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund to cover the cost of the activities of the working group in order to allow it to fulfil its mandate to foster the implementation of the Convention through the timely development of a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework;

5. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the highest possible level at the sessions of Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial contributions made by countries and other relevant stakeholders to carry out activities in the context of the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification;

7. *Reiterates* its calls upon Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to work closely with the secretariat of the Convention in the preparation for the

[4] A/61/225, sect. II.

sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission in the areas relevant to the Convention;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.